

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for receiving facsimiles in a multi-function printer device operating as a voice messaging system, said method comprising:

answering, by said multi-function printer device, an incoming phone call;

playing, by said multi-function printer device, an outgoing message;

monitoring, by said multi-function printer device, said incoming phone call for a facsimile tone while playing said outgoing message;

recording, by said multi-function printer device, an incoming message when no facsimile tone is detected; and

ceasing playing of said outgoing message by said multi-function printer device in response to said facsimile tone and initializing said multi-function printer device to receive an incoming facsimile transmission.

2. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

continuing to monitor said incoming call, by said multi-function printer device, for a facsimile tone, after said outgoing message completes.

3. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

monitoring, by said multi-function printer device, for sound during said recording; and initializing said multi-function printer device to receive an incoming facsimile transmission in response to no sound being detected during said monitoring during said recording.

4. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

printing a received facsimile by said multi-function printer device.

5. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

storing a received facsimile.

6. The method of claim 5 wherein said storing further comprises storing said received facsimile in memory of said multi-function printer device.

7. The method of claim 5 wherein said storing further comprises storing said received facsimile in memory of a general purpose processor based device connected to said multi-function printer device.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein said answering occurs after a predetermined number of rings, and said predetermined number of number of rings are preset in said multi-function printer device.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein said predetermined number of number of rings are selected by a user of said multi-function printer device.

10. A multi-function printer device comprising:
means for printing media;
means for optically scanning media; ^/
means for answering incoming phone calls, said answering means comprising means for playing an outgoing message and means for recording an incoming message;
means for sending and receiving facsimiles;
means for monitoring said incoming phone calls, while said means for playing plays said outgoing message, for a facsimile tone; and
means for initializing the facsimile means to receive an incoming facsimile transmission in response to said monitoring means detecting a facsimile tone.

11. The multi-function printer device of claim 10 wherein said monitoring means comprises means for continuing to monitor said incoming call for a facsimile tone during playback of said outgoing message.

12. The multi-function printer device of claim 10 wherein said monitoring means comprises means for continuing to monitor said incoming call for a facsimile tone after said outgoing message completes.

13. The multi-function printer device of claim 10 wherein said monitoring means comprises means for initializing the facsimile means to receive an incoming facsimile transmission in response to no sound being detected during recording of an incoming message.

14. The multi-function printer device of claim 10 wherein said device is adapted to employ the facsimile means and said answering means independent of a connection to a general purpose processor-based device.

15. The multi-function printer device of claim 10 further comprising means for receiving at least one memory device and means for downloading received faxes to said memory device.

16. The multi-function printer device of claim 10 further comprising means for receiving at least one memory device and means for downloading received messages to said memory device.

17. The multi-function printer device of claim 10 wherein said scanning means comprises a flatbed optical scanner.

18. The multi-function printer device of claim 10 wherein said scanning means comprises a picture frame scanner.

19. The multi-function printer device of claim 10 further comprising means for copying media as a combination of said printing means and said scanning means.

20. A system for providing a multi-function printer device a capability for receiving fax transmissions and providing voice messaging, said system comprising:

a multi-function printer device comprising:

a printer;

an optical scanner;

a call answering functionality; and

a facsimile functionality;

wherein said multi-function printer device monitors incoming phone calls to internally intercept and initialize said facsimile functionality to receive incoming facsimile transmissions while said call answering functionality is processing a call; and

a general purpose processor-based device selectively interfaced with said multi-function printer device and selectively powered.

21. The system of claim 20 wherein said facsimile functionality stores said incoming facsimiles to memory of said general purpose processor-based device.

22. The system of claim 20 wherein a microphone associated with said general purpose processor-based device is used to record an outgoing message for use by said call answering functionality.

23. The system of claim 20 wherein a speaker associated with said general purpose processor-based device is used for playing incoming messages.

24. The system of claim 20 wherein said general purpose processor-based device hosts a user interface adapted to receive user settings for said multi-function printer device.

25. The system of claim 24 wherein said user interface enables recording of an outgoing message for use by said call answering functionality.

26. The system of claim 20 wherein said a multi-function printer device is a stand-alone device adapted to employ said facsimile and call answering functionalities independent of said interface with said general purpose processor-based device.

27. The system of claim 20 wherein said multi-function printer device is a stand-alone device adapted to employ said facsimile and call answering functionalities independent of a power status of said general purpose processor-based device.

28. The system of claim 20 wherein said multi-function printer device further comprises a wireless interface, interfacing said general purpose processor-based device with said multi-function printer device.